

GUPAA GROWING REPORT

March 2022



**GUPAA Annual Meeting
Thursday
April 7, 2022
11:00 – 3:00 ET**

**Heirman
University
Center,
Room 952
Bay College
Escanaba, MI**

*GUPAA needs
your support -
Come to the
meeting and
bring a
neighbor!*

GUPAA Growing Report

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Hooray! Mask requirements have been lifted and we can resume in person meetings without restrictions! It has been three years since we held our last in person annual meeting. Covid restrictions began in March of 2020 and the annual meeting that year was cancelled. Restrictions continued through 2021 and last year's annual meeting was held virtually on March 23, 2021. But this year, we will gather together again for the annual meeting on April 7th, 11:00-3:00 ET, at Bay College in Escanaba.

As you can imagine, the attendance for last year's annual meeting was low, so just pertinent business was conducted. The treasurer's report was presented and approved, the Livestock and Agronomy research priorities were discussed and approved with no changes, and Ike McTyver was accepted to receive the 2021 Service to Agriculture Award posthumously. Since it is very difficult to conduct elections virtually, the membership voted to extend the current terms of the board members and officers for two years.

It seems like profit margins are historically low for agricultural products, especially if you live in remote areas far from normal commodity markets as experienced here in the UP. Finding a niche, adding value to the product, and selling locally is one avenue available to increase those profit margins. However, marketing value-added products can be very challenging and, at times, daunting for most producers. During the afternoon session of the annual meeting, a panel of producers will share their experiences and insights into "Local Foods-Marketing at the Next Level".

The Growing UP Agricultural Association was formed to help find answers to the many concerns, problems and opportunities of UP agriculture. Please consider attending this year's annual meeting and provide your voice in support of agriculture in Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula!

RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The Growing U.P. Agricultural Association strives to provide direction and support collaborative efforts to share resources through the agriculture industry in the Upper Peninsula. The GUPAA board and research advisory committee reviewed and revised the Project GREEN Agronomy and Livestock Priorities for the UP which are listed below.

Top Agronomy Priorities

1. Promote the integration of regenerative crop and livestock systems that are climate resilient.
2. Investigate, develop and demonstrate methods to improve soil health and soil biology.
3. Evaluate cost-effective methods to maintain or increase the economic viability of forage production in the UP on various soil types.
4. Continue to investigate and develop other potential cash crop production and marketing strategies.

Top Livestock Priorities

1. Promote the integration of regenerative crop and livestock systems that are climate resilient.
2. Investigate programs that add value to UP produced livestock and dairy products.
3. Utilize the beef herd at the Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center to enhance research capabilities.
4. Support resources to enhance small and/or beginning farm development and sustainability.

GUPAA members will have the opportunity to discuss and ratify these lists of priorities at this year's annual meeting.

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Thursday, April 7, 2022
11:00-3:00 ET
Heirman Center, Bay College
Escanaba, MI

Agenda

- 10:30-11:00 Registration - \$10.00 (includes GUPAA membership dues)
- 11:00-12:30 Annual Business Meeting
 - Minutes of previous meeting
 - Treasurer’s Report
 - Year in Review
 - Old Business
 - a. Research Priorities
 - b. Previous Grants
 - c. Meat Processing Update
 - New Business
 - a. MDARD Update
 - b.
 - MSU Updates
 - Annual Election
 - Service to Agriculture Award
- 12:30-1:00 Lunch—\$10.00 (Please RSVP to 906-439-5114, ext. 1)
- 1:00-3:00 “Local Foods-Marketing at the Next Level”
 - Producer panel discussion on marketing U.P. value added agricultural products

BOARD ELECTIONS

The current GUPAA board members and the expiration of their terms are as follows:

Region I - Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, Schoolcraft Counties — Tim Andrews, 2022; Leighton Miller, 2023

Region II - Delta, Alger, Marquette Counties — Bill Pirman, 2022; Ben Bartlett, 2023

Region III - Dickinson, Iron, Menominee Counties — Jon Ahlberg, 2022

Region IV - Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Keweenaw, Ontonagon Counties — Jean McParlan, 2022; Steve Palosaari, 2023

At Large - John Folcik, 2022; Jim Dalgord, 2023; Ron Collins, 2024

You will notice that the terms for Tim Andrews, Bill Pirman, Jon Ahlberg, Jean McParlan, and John Folcik are up. Under the bylaws, an individual is allowed to serve on the board for two consecutive terms. Unfortunately, Tim Andrews is not eligible for re-election. We will miss him, but are confident he will remain active in support of UP agriculture. All other board members are eligible for re-election. Nominations to the board must come from members within that respective region. So we strongly encourage you to call us in advance at (906)439-5114 with your nominations to expedite the election process.

ANNUAL DUES

It is also time to pay this year’s dues for GUPAA. Most people will pay their \$10.00 dues when they attend the Annual Meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please fill out the form below and remit your dues as soon as possible.

Please send to: GUPAA, MSU U.P. Research Center, P.O. Box 168, Chatham, MI 49816

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ email: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to Growing U.P. Agriculture Association